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REMARKS

Claims 41-75, as amended, remain herein.

Claims 41, 48, 60, 65, 66 have been amended to recite transmitting by the first appliance a demand querying the second appliance whether to be operated in linkage with the first appliance, and deciding by the first appliance based on a response from the second appliance that the second appliance should be operated in linkage with the first appliance, and claims 68-70 have been amended to recite corresponding wording describing apparatus. Claim 74 has been amended to recite transmission means for transmitting demand information for querying presence or absence of another appliance to be linked with the appliance. See applicants' specification at page 20, lines 9-13.

1. An objection was stated to claims 57 and 58. Claim 58 has been amended to depend from claim 49, thereby mooting the objection.

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1. Claims 41-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Welmer U.S. Patent 5,499,018 in view of Van Dort et al. U.S. Patent 5,537,104; and claims 44, 46, 49-56, 59, 63, 64 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Welmer '018, alone or in view of Van Dort et al. '104, further in view of Burgmann U.S. Patent 4,801,924.

The presently claimed method of setting a transmitting condition of data of a first appliance in a home network system for controlling a plurality of appliances including the first appliance and a second appliance linked with the first appliance, includes (1) transmitting by the first appliance a demand querying the second appliance whether to be operated in linkage with the first appliance, and (2) deciding by the first appliance based on a response from the second appliance that the second appliance should be operated in linkage with the first appliance. This method and corresponding apparatus for using this method are nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited references.

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Welmer '018 is alleged to disclose transmission of condition information, setting of information and data, and demanding a status response. The Examiner admits that Welmer '018 does not explicitly disclose controlling operation of a second appliance in response to the condition of the first appliance, and cites Van Dort et al. '104 as allegedly teaching such control. But, Welmer '018 also does not disclose or suggest transmitting by the first appliance a demand querying the second appliance whether to be operated in linkage with the first appliance, and deciding by the first appliance based on a response from the second appliance that the second appliance should be operated in linkage with the first appliance, as recited in claims 41, 48, 60, 65, 66 and corresponding wording in apparatus claims 68-70. Nor does Welmer '018 disclose transmission means for transmitting demand information for querying presence or absence of another appliance to be linked with the appliance, as recited in applicants' claim 74.

Neither Van Dort et al. '104, alleged to teach controlling operation of a second appliance in response to the condition of the first appliance, nor Burgmann '924, alleged to teach

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specifying periodic information, discloses anything that would cure the deficiencies of Welmer '018, explained above herein.

For the foregoing reasons, none of Welmer '018, Van Dort et al. '104 or Burgmann '924 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in any of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 42-46, which depend from claim 41, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 41, claims 49-59, which depend from claim 48, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 48, claims 61-64, which depend from claim 60, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 60, claims 72 and 73, which depend from claim 71, are allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 71, and claim 75, which depends from claim 74, is allowable for the same reasons explained herein for claim 74. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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All claims 41-75 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 41-75 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.



Roger W. Parkhurst
Registration No. 25,177
Robert N. Wieland
Registration No. 40,225

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PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805
Telephone: (703) 739-0220

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